

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SIG-03 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
ICAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
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NEA/INS - ATHIBAULT
-----126030 012315Z /61

O R 012142Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T STATE 110740

FOR THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT, IN, AF

SUBJECT: INDIAN ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN

REF: (A) NEW DELHI 6838; (B) COLOMBO 2029; (C) STATE
110080

1. WE THINK IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR YOU TO SHARE SOME OF
OUR THINKING WITH GOI AND OBTAIN INDIAN ASSESSMENT OF
SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN FROM EITHER THE FOREIGN SECRETARY
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OR THE FOREIGN MINISTER. WE NOTE (REF A) THAT INDIANS
HAVE RECOGNIZED NEW GOVERNMENT AND INDIAN AMBASSADOR WILL
BE MEETING WITH NEW LEADERSHIP IN KABUL MAY 1. WE ALSO
NOTE COLOMBO REPORT (REF B) WHICH SUGGESTS SOVIETS MAY
HAVE BRIEFED INDIANS ON APRIL 28. WE AGREE WITH COLOMBO
THAT THIS IS REMARKABLY FAST ACTION BY SOVIETS.

2. IN YOUR APPROACH TO GOI YOU MAY DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS.

-- YOU MAY INFORM GOI THAT WE ARE ACTIVELY CONSIDERING RECOGNITION QUESTION OURSELVES BUT HAVE NOT YET MADE DECISION. IT IS U.S. PRACTICE IN SUCH CASES TO MERELY AFFIRM MAINTENANCE OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

-- WE NOTE THAT NEW AFGHAN PRESIDENT AND A NUMBER OF MINISTERS ARE MEMBERS OF THE AFGHAN COMMUNIST PARTY BUT WE HAVE YET TO LEARN THE NATURE OF THE POLICIES OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT AND ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD ITS NEIGHBORS OR THE WORLD AT LARGE.

-- WE VERY FRANKLY DON'T KNOW WHETHER OR NOT THE EVENTS IN KABUL WERE INFLUENCED BY AN OUTSIDE POWER.

-- WE OF COURSE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE STABILITY OF THE SUBCONTINENT AND THE LONG RANGE IMPLICATIONS WHICH CHANGES IN AFGHANISTAN MAY HAVE FOR THE REST OF SOUTH ASIA.

-- WE HAVE VERY MUCH IN MIND THE LONG AFGHAN NATIONALIST TRADITION. WE HAVE YET TO ASSESS THE RELATIVE MIX OF NATIONALISM AND IDEOLOGY IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT, BUT WE CERTAINLY WILL AVOID ANY PRECIPITOUS ACTION WHICH MIGHT TIP THE BALANCE AWAY FROM TRUE NON-ALIGNMENT.

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3. WE WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO HAVE THE INDIAN ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION INCLUDING THEIR VIEWS ON POSSIBLE OUTSIDE INVOLVEMENT. IT COULD BE USEFUL IF THEY COULD SHARE WITH US INFORMATION BASED ON AMBASSADOR SING'S CONTACTS WITH THE NEW REGIME. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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